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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,853	06/08/2005	Sang-Chul Oh	1544.013	7203
29338	7590	08/31/2007		
PARK LAW FIRM 3255 WILSHIRE BLVD SUITE 1110 LOS ANGELES, CA 90010			EXAMINER DARNER, CHRISTOPHER J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3609	
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			08/31/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/537,853

Applicant(s)

OH, SANG-CHUL

Examiner

Christopher J. Damer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: using "+" and "-" instead of standard terminology of Phillips and Cross, and a lack of antecedent basis for "...of the other side end portion of the screw bar." Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, line 32, it is unclear what "...receiving the slip flooring connection pin and coupled with the supporter" is referring to.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naka et al. (U.S. Patent # 4,996,804) in view of Madl (U.S. Patent # 5,152,108).

With respect to claim 1, Naka teaches the height adjusting block including a connecting tongue (3) formed on the upper surface of the height adjusting block at Figure 1, threaded portion 3.

Naka does not teach vertical holes perforating the upper and lower surfaces of the height adjusting block. Madl teaches vertical holes (35) perforating the upper and lower surfaces of the height adjusting block at column 5, lines 30-36. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka by including vertical holes (35) perforating the upper and lower surfaces of the height adjusting block as taught by Naka in order to provide additional structural support.

Naka teaches built-in nuts (5) embedded and fixed into the vertical holes at column 2, lines 46-47.

Naka teaches connecting holes (7) formed in the lower surface of the supporter and coupled with the connecting tongue at Figure 1, supporting post 7.

Naka does not teach vertical working holes formed in positions corresponding to the vertical holes under a condition in which the supporter is coupled with the height adjusting block, and perforating the upper and lower surfaces of the supporters. Madl

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teaches vertical working holes (35) formed in positions corresponding to the vertical holes under a condition in which the supporter is coupled with the height adjusting block, and perforating the upper and lower surfaces of the supporters at column 5, lines 30-32. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka by including teaches vertical working holes (35) formed in positions corresponding to the vertical holes under a condition in which the supporter is coupled with the height adjusting block, and perforating the upper and lower surfaces of the supporters as taught by Madl in order to provide additional structural support.

Naka teaches connection protrusions (14) extending from a side of the upper surface of the supporter and protruding vertically at Figure 1, guide wall 14.

Naka teaches connection receiving parts (14) extending from the other side of the upper surface of the supporter at Figure 1, guide wall 14.

Naka teaches slip flooring connection pins (15) formed on the upper surface of the supporter, wherein the connection protrusions are coupled with the connection receiving parts formed on another supporter, which is installed adjacent to the present supporter at Figure 1, projection 15.

Naka teaches the sling flooring (2) includes a coupling groove formed in the lower surface at column 3, lines 62-68.

Naka does not teach a screw bar having a screw thread. Madl teaches a screw bar (24) having a screw thread at column 7, lines 14-17. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka by

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including a screw bar (24) having a screw thread as taught by Madl in order to provide height adjustment variations.

Naka does not teach a head part formed at a side end portion of the screw bar. Madl teaches a head part (56) formed at a side end portion of the screw bar at column 7, lines 33-36. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka a head part (56) formed at a side end portion of the screw bar as taught by Madl in order to provide height adjustment variations.

Naka does not teach a driver hole formed in the front end where the screw bar is inserted into the lower surface of the height adjusting block and coupled with the built-in nut. Madl teaches a driver hole (58) formed in the front end where the screw bar is inserted into the lower surface of the height adjusting block and coupled with the built-in nut at column 7, lines 33-36. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka to include a driver hole (58) formed in the front end where the screw bar is inserted into the lower surface of the height adjusting block and coupled with the built-in nut as taught by Madl in order to provide height adjustment variations.

With respect to claim 2, Naka does not teach a sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level further comprising a locking nut fastened to the screw bar of the horizon adjusting device. Madl discloses a sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level further comprising a locking nut (50) fastened to the screw bar of the horizon adjusting device at column 7, lines 21-27. It would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka to include a sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level further comprising a locking nut (50) fastened to the screw bar of the horizon adjusting device as taught by Madl in order to provide gradual and fine adjustments in height.

With respect to claim 3, Naka teaches a sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the head part of the horizon adjusting device is packed with a rubber cover (33) at column 4, lines 37-40.

With respect to claim 5, Naka does not teach sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the height adjusting block has connecting grooves formed in the lower surface thereof, so that a number of height adjusting blocks can be piled up by coupling the connecting tongues and the connecting grooves with each other. Madl teaches sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the height adjusting block has connecting grooves formed in the lower surface thereof, so that a number of height adjusting blocks (102,104) can be piled up by coupling the connecting tongues and the connecting grooves with each other at column 9, lines 28-31. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka to include sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the height adjusting block has connecting grooves formed in the lower surface thereof, so that a number of height adjusting blocks (102,104) can be piled up by coupling the connecting tongues and the connecting grooves with each other as taught by Madl in order to bear a greater amount of vertical and lateral force.

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6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naka et al. (U.S. Patent # 4,996,804) in view of Madl as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Huang (U.S. Patent # 4,780,571).

With respect to claim 4, Naka in view of Madl does not teach sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the height adjusting block has drain holes formed in the lower surface. With respect to claim 4, Huang teaches sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the height adjusting block has drain holes (131) formed in the lower surface at column 2, lines 49-51. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Naka in view of Madl to include sectional floor covering capable of adjusting level wherein the height adjusting block has drain holes (131) formed in the lower surface as taught by Huang in order to used for grounding.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nagare et al. (U.S. Patent # 4,736,555) teaches free access type floor, Albrecht et al. (U.S. Patent # 4,558,544) teaches adjustable pedestal for elevated floors, Owen et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,857,230) teaches raised flooring system and method, Owen et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,508,037) teaches raised flooring system and method, Propst (U.S. Patent # 5,333,423) teaches floor system, Huang et al. (U.S. Patent # 4,780,571) teaches combined floor pedestal and floor outlet, Springstead et al.



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(U.S. Patent # 6,101,768) teaches center supported ventilated raised floor with grated core, and Jones et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,520,471) teaches pedestal support for an elevated paver deck assembly.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher J. Darner whose telephone number is 571-270-3658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David V. Bruce can be reached on 571-272-2487. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CD



DAVID BRUCE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER